



May 2011 Newsletter

PO Box 299, Oberon 2787

<http://othr.com.au>

Secretary: phone: 02 6336 0207

email: admin@othr.com.au

*June monthly meeting - Wed 1st
at 7.30pm at the Oberon RSL Club.*

Welcome to the May newsletter. The recent AGM and elections remind us all that **FEES** are now due – they remain at \$15 per person and may be paid by cheque, EFT or by credit card/PayPal via the website.

Due to the hard work by our Secretary, Kylie, you will find the minutes of the Ordinary General Meetings are now available on our website. Go to the “About” tag and go to “Meetings” on the drop-down menu. They will usually be posted approx one week after the meeting.

No doubt for a variety of reasons, Workbee attendance has fallen off somewhat recently. This is a shame as we have achieved a great deal in the last few years and we are now so close to achieving our goal of running our heritage trains from Oberon to Hazelgrove. There are only a limited number of major tasks to be completed to achieve this goal. In other words “we can see the light at the end of the tunnel”. Yes, I can hear you all groaning at this terrible pun! However, please seriously consider giving some time to the monthly workbees – even spending a day can make all the difference to getting a specific task done. Don't leave it all to the “regulars” who turn up time and time again.

Thank you to Margaret Connors

As you will all have realised by now, Margaret Connors has relinquished the position of Secretary which she held for a considerable number of years. Margaret's computer skills (she helped Bob produce the Newsletter), organisation and communication – not to mention her Legal expertise – has ensured that the running of the OTHR “machinery” behind the scenes was as smooth and trouble free as possible. It seems fitting that Margaret is now “mentioned in despatches” as she takes some time to spend with family and farm. This is not to say that she is putting her feet up – her legal input is still sought and generously given with respect to documents required by the regulator, ITSRR, various insurance companies and the like. I'm sure we all wish Margaret well as she enjoys a slightly less hectic lifestyle.
Thank you, Margaret!



June Working Bee: 11th to 18th

Working Bee Dates for 2011	
June	11th – 18th
July:	9th – 16th
August:	6th – 13th
September:	3rd – 10th
October:	1st – 8th
November:	12th – 19th
December:	10th – 17th

If you can attend the working bees, please let Track Manager, Peter Culley, know as soon as possible – and at least by the Thurs before the workbee. Peter's mobile is 0427 042 448 – he will be very pleased to hear from you. Remember, even one day spent on the workbee helps. There has been quite a lot happening at the station over the last few working bees – so if you haven't been along for a while, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Workbee Accommodation Needed!

Some local OTHR members have volunteered their spare accommodation for out of town members during workbee times. Would members who are able to billet workers during the working bee periods please make contact with Laurie Evans (Ph 6336 1254) and let him know as soon as possible (preferably the Wed before the working bee). If you require accommodation over the workbee days please contact Laurie and let him know in good time.

Workbee Catering

Any OTHR member who can assist with catering for our hungry fettlers of the working bee crew is asked to contact Secretary Kylie on 6336 0207 prior to the working bee. Any edible donations will be greatly appreciated and will help OTHR conserve some precious funds.

Offsiders Wanted

Any OTHR members keen to lend a hand by means other than swinging a pick on the line are reminded that our Systems Manager, Ian Davis, is looking for an assistant. Also looking for an assistant (or two) is Track Manager, Peter Culley. Both these hard-working individuals could do with a hand at times in preparing documents, chasing up information, materials, parts, etc. If this appeals to you – the tasks are not physically demanding – then contact Peter (phone no. above) or Secretary Kylie. Both Peter and Ian would much appreciate a bit of help in this regard.

Donations sought

OTHR is seeking donations of useful stationery items – such as copy paper, manilla folders, pens, staples and the like. Our office at the station is currently undergoing a “spring clean” and files are being re-organised, sorted, updated, etc. Additional memorabilia donated is being catalogued and documented. To enable all this to proceed smoothly, additional stationery items would come in very handy. If you have any surplus stationery that you would like to donate please get in touch with our Secretary, Kylie.

Wayne Dempsey

Wayne Dempsey, our carriage restorer extraordinaire, who you will have seen featured in the March Newsletter, is currently in the Mater Hospital at Crows Nest having a knee operation. We wish Wayne a speedy recovery and hope to see him soon back at work on the carriages at Oberon. His past efforts have been most valuable in support of OTHR’s efforts to return the carriages to their former condition.



Wood Raffle Winner

The latest OTHR Wood Raffle, drawn last Saturday, was won by Carole Townsend of Oberon. With colder nights now upon us and with frosts common in the mornings, this is no doubt a welcome bonus for this happy winner.

Mt Vic Train Weekend

The great Mt Vic Train weekend is here again. Of particular interest to rail buffs is the steam train shuttle operating all weekend (28 & 29 May) from Katoomba to Mt Vic station. This will be operated by vintage loco 3237 with return fares of \$20 per adult, \$15 children, \$50 family. A great way to spend a family weekend.

Donor presentation

President Tim and John Giblin consumed a few convivial ales at the Tarana Pub on May Day. In the process Tim presented John with an OTHR wood-



mounted plaque in recognition of his most recent donation (March newsletter). We are most fortunate to have donors such as John, who have the Heritage rail project at heart. Thanks for your support, John!

mounted plaque in recognition of his most recent donation (March newsletter). We are most fortunate to have donors such as John, who have the Heritage rail project at

Around the Traps

There has been a lot happening in and around the Oberon Station yard lately. Peter and his gang of merry fettlers are proud to announce that the points indicator (photo) acquired by Graham Williams is now fully restored, installed and working! The drainage line running almost the full length of the yard is 90% complete and work has started on the new access path from Scotia St carpark.



New timber sleepers have been acquired for the level crossings and the appropriate rail is now on its way. Rail has been sourced from the Lithgow yards and workshop machinery from Katoomba. Productive discussions have been held with ARTC representatives re the BIG new shed for our locos and rolling stock. Once all the details are finalised, the plans and final DA will be submitted to Council so that work can start ASAP.

Strathaird Station Pc1

Your peripatetic newsletter Editor has recently inspected the Strathaird

station Pc1 building – one of the last remaining items of infrastructure left from the Taralga Branch Line. This little waiting shed is almost identical to the



ones which graced the Hazelgrove and Carlwood stations (but the awning is missing). Discussions with the property owner, Geoff Corby, are in an early stage, but we are hoping that we may be able to acquire this building for the Hazelgrove site restoration. If we can, this will be a major step forwards in the Hazelgrove precinct restoration process.

Additions to OTHR’s website –

Our website is slowly evolving as more features are added. The site now has more historic documents and photos, as well as photos of recent events. If you have not visited for a while, please check it out.

NB: Please send suggestions and material to incorporate in the Newsletter to Col at... taranaob@activ8.net.au Please put *OTHR Newsletter* in the subject line – so your e-mail will not be deleted!